

Subject: Docket No. 05-2018-01
From: The Lanes <chamala@lanebasket.net>
Date: 6/26/19, 1:10 PM
To: info@inspire2serve.gov

Dear Friends:

Allow me to register my sincere belief that any changes to the Selective Service System registration process must include the option for Conscientious Objectors to war and killing to state this fact on the initial registration form. This is only right and fair and is an exercise of a person's free will.

This issue concerns me, since I registered for the draft in May, 1952 at age 18 and noted on the form that I was a conscientious objector on religious grounds (Quaker). I included with the form a full written explanation of my position. The local draft board in Poughkeepsie, New York, granted me CO status.

In December, 1956, upon completing college, I entered a program run by the Brethren Volunteer Service, which the draft board accepted as an alternative service project. After a training session, I was sent to Austria to work in the Refugee Resettlement Program of the World Council of Churches under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. This work was primarily involved with resettling the flood of Hungarian refugees which had entered Austria following the suppression of the revolution in Hungary in October, 1956. In March, 1959, when my term was up, I returned to the USA and reported to the draft board where my service was duly noted.

I consider this experience to have been positive, not the least because it was possible to register as a conscientious objector on the initial draft form, and that the local draft board was able to accept and it and grant me CO status.

The fact that the current registration form used by the Selective Service System does not permit a registrant this option is a grave defect in the registration process, and must be corrected.

Thank you for this opportunity to make my comments known.

Sincerely,

Charles B. Lane
Lancaster, PA